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March 3, 2014 - Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes, Special Telephonic Meeting

Board of Trustees, Central Washington University

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

**Board of Trustees Minutes
Special Telephonic Meeting
March 3, 2014**

Approved April 4, 2014

Present:

Mr. Sid Morrison, Chair
Mr. Dan Dixon
Mr. Ron Erickson
Mr. Chris Liu
Ms. Amy McCoy

Absent:

Mr. Keith Thompson, Vice Chair
Ms. Annette Sandberg

Also present:

Dr. James Gaudino, President
Dr. Marilyn Levine, Provost/Vice President for Academic and Student Life
Ms. Sherer Holter, Vice President for Operations
Mr. George Clark, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs
Ms. Linda Schactler, Chief of Staff
Mr. Stevan DeSoer, Chief Human Resources Officer
Mr. Alan Smith, Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Sandra Colson, Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees

Chair Morrison convened the special telephonic meeting at 3:05 p.m. Trustee Amy McCoy joined the President's cabinet members in Barge Hall, room 412. Members of the ASCWU Board of Directors, Bryan Elliott, President, and Jacob Wittman, Executive Vice President, were present as was Sharon Jonassen, Student Financial Funds Manager, and student Nora Selander.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the ramifications of the Washington Senate and House supplemental budget bills. Senate Bill 6002, which has been approved by the Senate, provides \$1 million for expansion of computer science and engineering enrollments at CWU. It also prohibits all of higher education from implementing increases in resident undergraduate tuition for academic year 2014-2015. House Bill 2185, which had not yet received a vote of the full House, provides no additional operating funds for CWU, but preserves higher education's tuition setting authority for academic year 2014-2015. Once the House bill is passed, a conference committee made up of members of the House and Senate will negotiate a final budget to be sent to the Governor for his consideration.

The Board considered the financial implications for CWU if the Senate language were maintained in conference. In order to stay on the university's "flight plan" CWU will need approximately \$5 million in additional state funds or a 7% tuition resident undergraduate tuition increase. Chair Morrison noted that in December 2013 the Board had taken a formal public position of putting off a tuition increase

pending funding decisions of the state legislature.. He added that the trustees have been and are still firmly committed to university's six-year budget model for maintaining the quality of education provided to our students. Dr. Gaudino commented that without additional funds, the university may be faced with retrenchment--program and personnel cuts-- and would not be able to respond to student needs.

Mr. Smith explained that the budget bill includes an emergency clause which states that it will take effect immediately upon the Governor's signature. Mr. Dixon then asked for further clarification on what other institutions were considering. The Board also discussed whether they had the legal authority to enact a tuition increase prior to the final budget bill being signed, the timeline to do so, and the long term benefits and detriments of taking this action. Ms. Schactler responded that the timeline was anyone's guess; but that the conference committee is expected to complete their work by March 13. However, she noted that several items may extend that date including K-12 funding, eliminating some tax exemptions, and completing a transportation budget.

The Board also discussed the requirement to "make public" the intent to increase tuition 21 days before such an action is considered (28B.15.067(3)(b)). It was noted that the Board publically discussed the need for additional state funds or a tuition increase, at both the December and February business meetings. Mr. Smith, referencing a requirement to "give notice" (rather than "make public"), will review whether these discussions meet the intent of state law after reviewing the agendas, reports, and other documents associated with meetings.

Mr. Erickson recommended that a meeting be scheduled immediately within the 21-day timeframe if it is determined that the standard was not met. He also indicated that he would prefer that any motion for a tuition increase include an "up to" percent so as not to limit the Board's flexibility. Ms. McCoy indicated her support of a tuition increase in order to preserve important student programs and to support enrollment growth and recommended that any increase be "up to 11 percent," the amount budgeted in the six-year flight plan. In conclusion, Mr. Liu stated that the university must continue to pursue the types of entrepreneurial activities that will help it chart its own course for the future and not be as reliant on the state.

Meeting adjourned 4:06 p.m.



Linda Schactler, Secretary to the
Board of Trustees
Central Washington University



Sid Morrison, Chair
Board of Trustees
Central Washington University